Meeting Scheduled on Public Access at the Skagit, Snoqualmie Wildlife Areas

Local News

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OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has scheduled a public meeting Aug. 25 in Conway to discuss recreational access on portions of the Skagit and Snoqualmie wildlife areas.

The public meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Conway Fire Hall. WDFW staff will discuss the need to manage access at the two wildlife areas, where substantial portions of recreational land is being returned to intertidal habitat for fish and wildlife.

About 150 acres of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area's Spencer Island Unit was recently restored after old dikes and levees where breached. A similar project, which is scheduled to be completed in early September, will return about 160 acres of land to estuary habitat at the Skagit Wildlife Area's Headquarters Unit.

"As a result of these two restoration projects, hunters, wildlife viewers and others are going to be concentrated onto smaller areas," said Lora Leschner, regional wildlife program manager for WDFW. "We would like to discuss with the public safety concerns, managed access and opportunities to avoid conflicts between the different user groups."

The restoration projects on the Skagit and Snoqualmie wildlife areas are intended to restore important estuarine habitat for wildlife and fish, particularly salmon, said Leschner. WDFW owns and manages the Skagit and Snoqualmie wildlife areas to preserve and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide sites for outdoor recreation.

Information on the Skagit and Snoqualmie wildlife areas is available on WDFW's website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/index.html .